The CANADIAN PHILATELIST

APRIL

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WESTERN COLLECTORS

No. 1 - Stephen Golder.

MR. STEPHEN GOLDER, the first of our series of Canadian philatelists, is better known to American stamp collectors by his contributions to the American press, than in person. The subject of our sketch always been an enthusiastic collector, but like many others has from time to time disposed of his collections only to start collecting again.

Mr. Golder has had many opportunities to meet collectors in different parts of the world, having some few years ago travelled extensively in the United States, Mexico, Hawaii. He has twice visited South Africa, making one of a party that crossed the Rhodesian district in a bullock wagon before the railway was constructed to Salisbury. He has been to Mozambique, Nyassa, Madagascar, Zanzibar, and many points in British East, West and Central Africa. In addition, he has visited every capital in Europe twice.

In his early days Mr. Golder was for seven years connected with the large publishing house of Iliffe and Sturney, of Coventry, England., acting as private secretary to the firm, and for two years was editor and manager of Bicycling News, resigning his position to act as foreign and colonial representative for a big English Syndicate.

During his residence in Regina, our subject until the last month has occupied the position of night editor of the Regina Leader, contributing and editing a philatelic column in that paper, besides contributing to other papars.

Mr. Golder's stamp collection is a general one. He collects stamps of all kinds. and if he has any particular weakness it is for old European issues.

His collection is not large, numbering 10,200 varieties. but contains a complete collection of all the Japanese issues.

A. K.

MR. STEPHEN GOLDER.

Editor of The Canadian Philatelist.

THE PUBLISHER'S PAGE

WE are aiming to make this magazine one of the best on the continent. To achieve our ambition co-operation is necessary. We need the support of all our philatelic friends. Don't say you can't help. You can. Begin by filling in the subscription blank sent herewith, enclose it with 25c. (money order preferred), and your best wishes, in an envelope, and mail to us.

Then send the other blanks to collector friends, being careful to write your name and address on the back. For each one returned we will credit you with five cents, which you can have in cash or advertising. This offer can only be taken advantage of by subscribers and for a limited time only, as we believe we are turning out a magazine worth more than 25 cents a year. We shall be pleased to furnish you with a quantity of blanks on request, and dealers wishing a quantity, can have their address printed on the back without extra charge.

We are rather hopeful of our prospects. Our first advertising contract was for one year, and a cash deal at that. Being superstitious we believe that this a good omen. Behind this magazine is a well established business and one of the most up-to-date printing offices in the Canadian west, and we intend to hang on like the proverbial pup, "until the root breaks," and then some.

The Canadian Philatelist

Vol. 1. Rouleau, Sask., April 15, 1910 No. 1

Colin's Collection

By Bertha C. Foster, Author of "Rose Celeste," etc.

COLIN Paterson laid the baby in his cot, and stood looking down at the sleeping boy with an anxious expression of care on his manly face, not good to see in one so young. Then he crept softly to the door of the inner room and peeped inside.

A fair haired girl, little more than a child, opened her eyes, and smiled wistfully up at him from the bed on which she lay. Quickly he crossed the room and bent and kissed the pale, pretty face.

"The boy's asleep, Mab," he said, stroking her thin hand. "I guess he'll be quiet now till tea time. I am going to chop some kindling; it's too rough to do any work out doors."

"Yes, dear, it is the worst blizzard we've had this winter, isn't it? Don't hurry about tea, Colin, I can get up and set the table, I feel stronger to day."

"You will please do nothing of the kind," he said severely, "I've plenty of time. Now go to sleep, like a good little girl, till I come in."

He smiled at her bravely, but as he turned away the anxious look returned, and his grey eyes were full of sadness as he buttoned up his old sheepskin coat, and went out into the blinding snow storm to the stable.

He stopped to pat the bay mare as he passed through to the shed, and looked regretfully at the other vacant stall, where only a few weeks ago his valuable chesnut horse had been, his bride and joy. Luck seemed to have deserted him all the year. In the summer he had been almost entirely hailed out, and most of his crop had not been insured. Then the little wheat that was left had been spoilt by the early frost, and was no good for market. These things were bad enough, but he had saved a little money and could have tided over the bad season if his pretty young wife had been strong and well. But, alas, ever since the fall, when the baby came she had been ailing, and now, at the beginning of March, the doctor told him if he wanted to save her life he must send her away to the coast for at least three months, where perfect rest and more cheerfull surroundings than the lonely little farm life could offer, would set her up again.

Then, three weeks ago, the horse he loved better than anything else except his wife and child, had taken ill, and died.

How the seeding and other work was to be done without the animal he dared not think, for a new horse was quite beyond his means.

As he turned into the wood shed the question of ways and means once more weighed upon his mind.

Go to the west, somehow or other his wife must—but how could he raise the cash to get her there? All his savings were gone now, for they had not been very great and he possessed nothing of value which he could sell.

"And to think of all the money my father had!" he said, bitterly, as he chopped away at some old boxes. "Just because the sweetest girl in all the world happened to have been on the stage, he cut

me off without even the proverbial shilling. Every actress must be a child of the devil, according to my father. Well—let us hope he'll be judged more mercifully, hereafter. Though I don't care a pin for the money myself, I want it for Mabel now, and the boy."

He struck at a pile of rubbish, with angry blows, and to his surprise the hatchet hit on something hard. It was a small packing case, evidently stowed away and forgotten.

"Why—I must have left this here ever since I built the shack!" he exclaimed. "It hasn't been undone since it left the Old Country. I guess it is the books I thought I had lost."

He lifted it out of the dust and litter, and with the hatchet took out the nails which secured the lid.

As he expected, the box contained books. Eagerly he took them out and looked at the familiar covers. There were his favorite Dickens', his George Eliot's and Scott's novels, two or three volumes of poetry, and then—right at the bottom—a shabby-covered, large book. With a cry of joy he lifted it out.

"My postage stamps!" he exclaimed, "why, I must have packed them away four years ago! Here is the means for Mab's holiday."

Joyfully he carried the volume into the shack. He put it carefully away till tea was over and the baby asleep again. Then, sitting by his wife's bedside, he told of his discovery.

"They are valuable, some of them, Mab. I started the collection when I was a kid, and many of my happiest hours were spent pouring over my stamps. These old English now, must be worth quite a bit, and that set of the old Transvaal are good. Gee! it is good to see them again."

"It seems a pity to sell them," she sighed.

He smiled, a little regretfully. "Your health is worth any sacrifice, darling, though I own I'd like to have kept them for the boy. But we will start another collection, and by the time he is a man, we'll have a fine lot again."

The next morning the storm abated, and Colin Paterson hitched up his horse and drove to the town about six miles away. He had written to a stamp dealer with whom he used to do business, in the States, for he was determined to lose no time in the the matter. Before dropping his letter in the box he went to the office to see if there was any mail. His correspondence was not large, but there was a blue, legal-looking document from the Old Country, for himself, and a letter for his wife. He broke open the seal at once, full of curiosity. Then an exclamation of astonishment broke from his lips. He thrust the blue envelope in his pocket, and hurried back to his rig, without waiting to do the shopping, and drove quickly home.

"Mab," he cried, bursting into her room like a school boy, "the stamps can be saved after all!"

She looked up, her pale face flushed and eager.

"My father's will was found, cutting me off without a penny, but it was unsigned, and to-day his lawyer has written to say the old will is the only legal one and that I come into about twenty thousand pounds."

She drew his head down on the pillow beside her.

"Luck came with your stamps," she said.

"Yes," he laughed, boyishly, "it will be a lesson to me not to put them away again. From hence forth our collection shall occupy a prominent place."

"Yes, indeed it shall," she said.

From the Editorial Pen.

In these days of centennial and commemorative issues, it is a wonder that the eightieth anniversary of the introduction of the postage stamp was allowed to pass without some sort of postal issue to celebrate the occasion. January 10th last was the eightieth birthday of the adhesive stamp, which Rowland Hill first gave to the world. In 1890, the British postal authorities issued a special jubilee envelope envelope and post card to celebrate the jubilee of the uniform penny postage system, the envelope bearing the portrait of the Queen, inscribed "Postage One Penny," together with a picture of the North mail, 1890, approaching Carlisle at forty eight miles an hour. A figure of the letter carrier of 1840 wearing a high hat, is at one side with the rates 4d., 8d., 1s. 2d., 2s. 6d., faced by an up-to-date letter carrier of 1890, with the rate 1d. The card bears the portrait of Rowland Hill, with the legend "He gave us Penny Postage."—V. R. Penny Postage Jubilee, 1890."

Many youthful collectors are puzzled over the many varieties of perforations listed by stamp dealers in their catalogues. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., the old established English dealers do not catalogue minor varieties and perforation measurements, Their latest catalogue without minor varieties gives the total number of stamps issued to date of their list (October 1909) as 22,926, of which 6,835 are apportioned to the British Empire, and 16,091 to the rest of the world. Europe has issued 4,834, Asia 4,423, Africa 5,154, America 5,031, the West Indies 1,856, and Oceania 1,625.

Major Evan's, the eminent British collector, recently expressed himself as follows on the matter of perforations: "It is generally acknowledged that the study of perforations, and the listing of minor varieties of them have been indulged in to an extent that is by no means justified by their real philatelic interest and importance."

An exchange says that the story broadly circulated that the new issue of stamps for Russia, will bear the effigy of the Czar is a mistake. Such a use of the Imperial head is utterly inconceivable in Russia. Postage stamps are made to be defaced, and no Russian—not even a revolutionist—would subject the effigy of of the "Little Father," to such usage. Even on coins, hallowed by immemorial usage of the great nations of antiquity, Russia does not use the Imperial head, except on the pure gold and silver coins; the base silver and copper coins bear the Russian eagle only and the Russian word for "head," in "heads and tails" is always "eagle."

Whether the same sentiment would apply to the issue of a series with portraits of the Roman off dynasty, is a moot question. Any way a large series after the style of the Austrian current issue would be an interesting addition to our collections.

Three cornered Cape of Good Hope stamps in the early days of stamp collecting, were the pride of every youthful collector; they were plentiful too, and the writer well remembers trading several away at school for a wonderful humming peg top. Times have changed however, and three cornered Capes are scarcely ever seen on dealer's sheets.

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Exchanges are requested to send one copy to S. Golder, 1761 Scarth St., Regina, Sask., and one to Andrew King, Rouleau, Sask. Similar exchange will be given.

Canada, the largest dominion in the world, has up to the present time been without a purely philatelic journal entirely devoted to the fascinating hobby of stamp collecting. All efforts in the past to establish a large and representative philatelic society in the Dominion has also proved a failure.

Why, it is hard to say. With the enormous quantity of immigrants from all parts of the civilized world pouring into the country, its wealth, its prosperity, its long winter evenings (in thousands of cases spent in solitude by old countrymen, many of them public school boys), stamp collecting ought to be one of the best methods of passing the time.

We feel that the time has arrived when Canada, like nearly all other civilized countries should have a philatelic journal of its own and we intend to do our best to provide a journal that will prove interesting and instructive. We have secured correspondents from many parts of the world, who will keep us posted up in all matters of philatelic interest, and our readers from the Atlantic to the Pacific may rely upon everything of the latest. The youthful collector will be looked after too, and the would be collector told how to start collecting.

Unlike the majority of stamp papers published in the Old Country, and over the border, The Canadian Philatelist will be a free lance, its editor and publisher having no connection, or interest, in any firm of stamp dealers. They are both enthusiastic collectors, however, and intend making their venture one that collectors will look forward to month by month, and with this object in view ask collectors and advertisers to join with them in giving Canada a stamp journal that Canada may be proud of.

Regina Precancelleds

In view of the immense volume of matter mailed at the Regina Post Office by the many large wholesale and other commercial houses doing business in the west, Postmaster Nicoll has received word from the Post Office Department at Ottawa, to the effect that it has decided to place Regina Post Office on the list of offices allowed to use pre-cancelled stamps.

The pre cancelled stamps, which are cancelled by the Department at Ottawa, with the words "Regina, Sask.," printed in distinct lettering across the face of the stamps, will only be sold in quantities of $10 and upwards, the minimum of mail upon which they may be used being 1,000 pieces of third class mail carrying a one

cent stamp or 500 pieces carrying a two cent stamp.

By the use of pre-cancelled stamps the staff of the Regina office will be saved the labor at present involved in the cancellation of stamps.

Our Juvenile Column

BY YETERAN

Having had the opportunity during the past few year, of starting many youngsters well on the way to collecting, principally through the kind assistance of Mr. H. B. Clark, Exchange Superintendent of the Metropolitan Philatelic Association of America, who donated me a sack full of Missionary Mixtures to give away to all interested in stamp collecting, I have been asked by our editor to conduct this column, and being always willing to do anything in my power to advance our glorious pastime, I sally forth.

For a start off, I quote largely from an interesting little booklet, issued by Messrs. Butler Bros., of Clevedon, England, the information in which is so clearly given that it cannot well be beaten.

In commencing to make a collection of stamps, the youthful philatelist should first of all look up all his relations, particularly those who occupy offices, and beg the privilege of going through the waste paper baskets, or better still make friends with the clerk that opens the mail. Many foreign and high value stamps of one's own country can be picked up in this way—stamps being usually thrown away attached to the covers they arrive on. Then, the innumerable uncles and aunts scattered in different parts of the country should be written to. Almost every boy or girl has some relations or friends living abroad.

Another way of making a good start is to purchase a packet of several hundred varieties for a quarter or half a dollar, from one of the many stamp firms that advertise largely in the stamp papers.

Having secured a starter, the next thing is to procure some sort of a book or album for their convenient disposition and arrangement. Any blank leaf book will do to start with, although proper stamp albums can be purchased cheaply enough.

In placing the stamps in the collection they should not be gummed or pasted in flat, because by so doing the watermarks would be hidden. Small stamp hinges are sold by all dealers at a few cents per thousand, and when stamps are affixed with these they may be raised for examination. The gum on unused specimens remains uninjured, a matter of considerable importance concerning the value of a stamp, and specimens may be immediately removed from the collection altogether if desired.

The paper from the backs of the stamps should be carefully removed. To do this, float the stamps in water, face upwards. Do not immerse, but float them, using your discretion as to the time necessary; then turn them face down on a clean sheet of paper, blotting paper is the best, and you will be able to slide the paper off the back. Some stamps may be immersed without injury, others would be ruined. Many Russian stamps must never be wetted on the surface, so to remove paper from these put them face down on a sheet of clean dry botting paper and cover with another, damp sufficiently to moisten the paper on the back until it readily peels off.

(To be Continued)

Two of the largest stamp importing firms have between them over $1,250,000 invested in stamps.

Origin of the Stamp

A writer in Chamber's Journal points out that the inventor of the "adhesive postage stamp" was undoubtedly Rowland Hill. In 1837 he proposed the use of "a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash, which the bringer might, by the application of a little moisture, attach to the back of the letter."

No evidence that will bear the slightest scrutiny, we are told, has been produced to support the various proir claims to the invention of the adhesive postage stamp; and even should such a claim ever be established, it could not in the slightest degree lessen Rowland Hill's reputation.

It was in January, 1840, that uniform penny postage came into being; but it was not until May of that year that the postage stamps themselves were ready. There were four varieties in all: adhesive stamps to the value of one penny black, and two-pence blue, and envelopes of same values. The stamps showed a profile of the youthful queen, after a medal by Wyon, and in their severe elegance of design and superb engraver's work form miniature works of art that in their kind have never since been surpassed or even equalled. The envelopes bore an elaborate allegorical design by William Mulready, R.A., in which Brittania was seen dispatching winged messengers to all quarters of the globe.

At the end of ten years after the introduction of Rowland Hill's stamp only thirteen foreign countries had adopted the invention, and it is curious to think that the example of Great Britain should first have been followed, in 1843, not by other great European powers, but by Brazil and two Swiss cantons. But during the fifties the accessions came thick and fast, till by January, 1860, there were eighty five countries that had issued postage stamps. These colored labels soon began to attract the notice of the curious, and early in the fifties a few individuals here and there were forming stamp collections. It was not until 1861 that the hobby attracted public attention, developing the following year into a veritable craze.

Stamp Education

The Educational Committee of the American Philatelic Society, are to be congratulated on the opening of their campaign to interest young people and to open the eyes of parents to the educational scope of stamp collecting.

Some little time ago the educational side of stamp collecting received a striking endorsement in the action of the Victoria University at Manchester.

In the Zoological Museum attached to the University, various animal stamps, from Newfoundland, Canada, Borneo, Nyassa, Tasmania, Australia, etc., are being used as a means of illustrating in an informative and attractive manner, the various animals, birds, and fishes, many of them being rare species quite unknown outside the countries on whose stamps they appear. The curators of the museum have attached a map to each stamp in their exhibit showing the country represented, and thus the specimens are made to teach a double lesson.

In Canada, the school boys in a western city were made the participants in a free stamp distribution a generous and enthusiastic collector in the States, donating the writer of a philatelic column in the local paper, with a sack

full of his mixed duplicates to distribute gratis to all school boys or others that cared to fetch the same. By this means many collectors were started, and have since developed into ardent and enthusiastic philatelists.

The publicity department of the A.P.S., in addition to using the columns of the press by a series of illustrated articles on popular phases of stamp collecting and syndicating these articles to a large list of newspapers, is now inaugurating a distribution of stamps on a new plan.

The scheme originated by the committee is to distribute in large quantities, folders bearing sets of stamps, together with such information regarding their designs, circumstances of issue, country of origin, and any other particulars of general interest.

The first of these folders now being distributed bears five Philipinne stamps, and are admirably calculated to interest scholars not previously acquainted with the joys of stamp collecting. An interesting little story of the characteristic points of interest of each of the stamps is also printed the balance of the folder being given over to a short history of the Philipinne Islands from a geographical, historical and ethnological point of view.

In Germany, a good deal of discussion has been going on in the philatelic press as to whether it is wise to encourage stamp collecting among school children, and expert opinion is a good deal divided.

A valuable discovery has been made, says The Hobbyist, of three distinct varieties of paper in the present issue Canada, 1c. King's Head. Unused specimens on thin, medium and thick paper were recently shown in Winnipeg. The thin paper was slightly ribbed, and the thick paper quite hard.

Notes of Interest

The American philatelic press are just now sorely troubled over the recent ruling of the Post Office Department, requiring the discontinuance of the practice of the receipt of society subscriptions in a lump form, or at any discount from the full subscription price.

That popular journal Redfield's Stamp Weekly, takes the bull by the horns, and says: "It is our intention to conform in every point to the ruling of the Department. As fast as our contracts with societies which we are serving as official journal shall expire, we shall discontinue all subscriptions involved in these contracts. But after the expiration of these contracts, we will continue to publish the official matter of these societies, if such be the societies' wishes, free of cost. We will grant to each society an amount of space commensurate with its importance and standing.

"We will trust to the loyalty of the members, that, when remitting to the society secretary for dues, they will add 50c in payment for their subscription to Redfield's Stamp Weekly.

"We hope and believe that the liberal treatment that we have uniformly employed in respect to societies that we have served as official journal, will now be reciprocated by equally cordial and hearty support from the members of these societies. We solicit the renewal of each and every expiring society subscription, as fast as they may expire through the termination of the aforesaid contract. We shall continue to do our best to promote the interests of organized philately."

This is just what one would expect from Redfield's, and we sincerely trust that that interesting

stamp weekly will receive the loyal treatment from society members that it deserves.

The Canadian Philatelist will welcome reports from Philatelic Societies from all over the world, and will be pleased to give space to their doings. Subscriptions, too, from members of societies will also be appreciated.

With the introduction of bi colored stamps in 1889 the frames were printed in fugitive colors, such a lilac and green, as a protection against the cleaning of stamps, as such colors would be destroyed upon being wet. In order to clean the backs of the stamps from adhering paper it is impossible to retain the original color if the stamp is soaked in water. To make sure of preserving bi-colored stamps, they can be put in salt water without doing any perceptible harm to the stamp. In no case should more than one color of stamps be soaked at one time. The pale green used in recent issues, such as Lagos, is the most fugitive of all colors.

Which of the southern, or central American states will be the first to commemorate the advent of Halley's comet on a speculative issue?

King Edward, it is said, is anxious for a new issue of postage stamps to commemorate the tenth anniversary of his accession to the throne when this takes place in 1911. His Majesty is anxious to be depicted wearing his crown, and with an up to date portrait. The recent issue of Australian stamps is said to have impressed the King, who has expressed a wish that something equally free and dignified might shortly be adopted for the stamps of Great Britain. Under these circumstances the suggestion has been made that competitive designs should be invited for a new issue, and it is highly probable that this will be done at an early date.

An entirely new issue of stamps for the Island of M[illegible] will appear during the next few months. The stamps will bear King Edward's portrait.

For the first time on record a stamp collection has figured in a Divorce Court, Alfred Pearson, a former mayor of Winnipeg, and his wife, Marie Louis Bryan Pearson, have gone to the Divorce Court in Chicago, for the second time. Each is suing for a divorce from the other, and Mrs. Pearson, amongst other things wants comfort in the half share of her husband's collection of postage stamps valued at $40,000.

The oldest post mistress in the world has just passed away at Minishant, a village near Ayr, Scotland. Mrs. Margaret Limond was in her ninety-fifth year, and was able to perform her postal duties almost to the last. Mrs. Limond was born in the year of the battle of Waterloo, and entered the postal service in 1852, at a salary of $25 per annum, and was initiated into the duties by the late Sir Rowland Hill, who was at the time on a fishing expedition on the Doon.

An idea of the enormous growth and popularity of stamp collecting may be gathered from the fact that a well known philatelist possesses a library of 2,500 books, each one about some phase of the hobby, and yet his library is far from complete.

Stamp Collecting

From An Educational Point of View

By J. B. PARKER

I think there are many details —some may regard them as minor—in connection with this hobby that appeal to all, especially the rising generation. From a broad stand-point we cannot but be impressed with these facts as they arise, and I submit a few :

First—System and order. There is only one right place for a certain stamp to be placed. This will assist the juvenile mind by this pleasant pastime the necessity of system and perfect arrangement.

Second. — Geographical hints. When you come across a stamp bearing the name of a place you never heard of, your curiosity is naturally aroused and you look the place up—get its location—and some prominent features,etc., thus adding to your fund of general knowledge.

How many people could tell off hand where the following places are ? I only mention a few—there are others: Antioqua, Boyaca, Chamba, Cucuta, Horta, Nyassa, Santander, Togo Tolima, etc.—all stamp issuing countries of the present day.

Third.—Historical associations, as produced by the changes of these stamps caused by deaths of sovereigns or rulers, or the changes in the systems of governments; but in our day more particularly by the beautiful issues of commemorative stamps such as our own "Jubiles" and "Quebecs" or the United States, or by many exhibition issues in the South American republics, the designer's art has been tested to the fullest extent, and historical facts and faces have been faithfully reproduced in artistic miniature form for commercial purposes, thence for our particular edification and pleasure.

Fourth.—The sense of calm and quite frame of mind that steals over one is very soothing and gratifying when one indulges an hour's relaxation from business or excessive sport and gets out the album and a bunch of new stuff, and contentedly going over them, often finding one you have not got, and placing it in the correct place in the album.

Fifth.—The financial aspect is merely a matter of individual gratification and means, but I claim a boy spending a small amount weekly, and by judicious trading can get as much pleasure and education out of this marvelous pastime as the prince or millionaire chasing "a thousand dollar specimen" merely to own it as being worth that sum.

Finally: Our hobby, the hobby of intelligence, tends to draw minds together, and a quiet hour exchanging and comparing specimens, looking up facts, reading stamp items, adds new interest to life, and drives away the routine business fag or tends to eliminate the ever present tendency for sport, sport, sport, and cheap moving picture shows.

German Domestic Stamps.

Each week there is pas'ed in the little black book that every servant girl in Germany must possess, a postage stamp to the value of about five cents. This stamp is a donation, compulsory under the German law, which the mistress must afford the servant. Should the girl fall ill, the stamps are redeemed by the government, or the servant may retain the stamps indefinitely, until when she has retained a ripe old age, the government pays her a premium for them.

Eye glasses on a postage stamp figure for the first time in history. The royal effigy of the Grand Duke of Luxumbourg, wearing eye glasses appears on the latest issue of stamps from the Grand Duchy. The Duke, it is said, is so short sighted, that he never goes without his glasses.

It is said that the philatelist, under the educational influence of stamp study, becomes a geographer, a politician, a linguist, a botanist, a zoologist, an engraver, a chemist, a paper maker, a printer, an artist, and many other things.

The Lodge Record states that 150,000,000 copies of the Seattle commemorative stamp were printed.

The first impressions of the early issues of many countries present a much better appearance than later printings from the same plates. The reason is that the delicate lines of printing plates easily become worn. Collectors of old issues often pay high prices for "early" or "first" printings. Mr. W. S. Lincoln, the oldest stamp dealer in the world, advises collectors to secure an unused copy of the new issue British fourpence, orange. It is a stamp that he thinks will not last long in use, as the color is so much objected to.

The United States Government will, it is said, extend the experiments with colored paper to the high value stamps.

Judging from the reports of philatelic societies published in their different organs, the season of 1910 will be one of the greatest activity. Recent auction sales show that the prices of good specimens of rare stamps are in many cases far above the catalogue value.

Many new hand books are listed for the current year. The publishers of the Collector's Journal, of Chicago, intend publishing several series of eight books each, the first to treat of the stamps of the United States. Other publishers and authors have books in preparation, so by the end of the year we may find quite a little library of philatelical literature. Who will be the first to give to the stamp world a hand-book of Canada?

Postal arrangements are somewhat primitive in Iceland, the island has fifteen places where despatchers of posts are established, and fifty four places where there are collectors of letters. If one hundred stamps are purchased at one time a discount of four per cent. is allowed.

There may be fortunes in stamps occasionally. The collector who stumbles across a rare stamp or makes an investment that brings a forty fold return may be forgiven if he talks about his good fortune, but ninety nine others who fail in a similar venture are usually silent about it. A collection of stamps is seldom worth more than it originally cost till some few years have elapsed. The few stamps that fly straight to high figures are scarce, and none but a diligent student of philately can foresee their rise. The moral of which is let the stamps be collected for the love of the pastime and let the matter of profit be shelved as a remote possibility.

In 1649 the Corporation of London started an Inland Post in opposition to that of Parliament, but it was suppressed by the Council of State.

Burglars recently blew open the safe of the Richmond, Virginia, post office and made away with between $25,000 and $50,000 worth of stamps. A swarm of detectives have have been kept busy trying to locate the robbers.

It is not generally known that known that the Pope has authority to use a frank on all correspondence throughout Italy. He does not avail himself of the privilege, but uses current Italian stamps.

In 1850 the first unpaid letter stamps issued by any country were issued in France. They bore the denomination in centimes and were first lithographed and then typographed in black on white to yellowish paper.

Germany is following the lead of the United States and is supplying stamps in rolls for automatic vending machines. Orders have recently been given that the current low value German stamps be printed in long rolls of 50,000 stamps and placed on sale at all the larger post offices. The rolls are, of course, intended for use in the many automatic machines that are at present in operation in the principal German cities. Up to the present the vending companies have been forced to use rolls made by piecing stamps together in strips of ten—a laborious task.

Critical stamp collectors from many parts of Great Britain, assembled recently to examine an unusually fine collection of Transvaal stamps, exhibited by Mr. Harvey R. G. Clarke, a member of the Royal Philatelic Society. The stamps dating from the first Republic follow the history of South Africa, and were explained by President F. J. Melville, of the Junior Philatelic Society. Although only of one country, the collection is valued at many thousand dollars.

It is estimated that there are 500,000 stamp collectors in Great Britain, and more than seventy per cent. of the school boys of England are collectors, too. Every year the hobby seems to grow in popularity, and every year the value of rare stamps increases. Not many years ago a Post Office Mauritius stamp, either of the penny or the twopence value, realized $100. To day, one unstamped specimen of the penny value is worth $10,000. A little while ago the Prince of Wales, who is the owner of one of the finest stamp collections in the world, paid $7,250 for one of the twopenny stamps, which are slightly less rare than the old blue ones.

The day may not be far distant which will see the introduction of an international postage stamp. Postal service will then, perhaps, be carried on throughout the world with as few stamps as are at present current in this country. Should this ever come to pass, the endless varieties of the present day may become priceless treasures, may even in time, hundreds of years to come, be looked upon as curiosities of the world, and of the 20th century.

Nothing definite has been learned re the new issue of stamps for the South African Union, although a suggestion has been made that the issue should be ready for the visit of the Prince of Wales, then, doubtless His Highnes would receive a set of first impressions. The Prince was always a student of early African issues, and is credited with discovering a Transvaal surcharged variety, which had been overlooked by the catalogue compilers.

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